

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

As an initial matter, Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner appears to have withdrawn all rejections which are set forth in the previous Office Action.

Claims 12-17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 32, 33, 35-37 and 41-55, i.e., all claims under consideration, are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,468,551 and claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,733.

Response to Office Action

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record are respectfully requested in view of the executed Terminal Disclaimer submitted herewith.

It is pointed out that the executed Terminal Disclaimer is submitted to advance prosecution of the instant application to allowance. This Terminal Disclaimer is being presented without expressing agreement or acquiescence with the rejections of record, and merely is being filed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Authorization is hereby provided to charge any fee necessary for consideration or entry of the Terminal Disclaimer to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Applicants further note the Examiner's interpretation of the claims under consideration set forth at page 2 of the present Office Action. In this regard, it is submitted that the instant claims are

clear as such and do not require any interpretation.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, and an early issuance of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability is earnestly solicited. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted
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/Heribert F. Muensterer/

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